

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

November 21, 2008 to December 18, 2008

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service plans to adjust the 2008 North and South Atlantic swordfish baseline commercial quotas based on underharvests from 2007, and to modify the vessel chartering regulations. The proposed rule would also transfer 18.8 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) to Canada from the reserve category. The proposed 2008 adjusted quotas for the North and South Atlantic swordfish would be 4,406.4 mt dw and 150.4 mt dw, respectively. NMFS is proposing changes to the current chartering regulations that would allow chartering of foreign vessels of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) to fish on the high seas against U.S. Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) quotas or entitlements.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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